

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following Amendment is presented in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b) and MPEP § 1453 governing amendments in reissue applications. Amendment of the claims is requested, as follows:

32. (Amended) A mold shell for use with a machine for manufacturing thermoplastic containers, said machine comprising two mold carriers which can move with respect to each other, said mold carriers supporting two shell holders including pipes and connections for the circulation of cooling and/or heating fluids, said shell holders defining a cavity for receiving said mold shell, said mold shell comprising:

a shell body defining an impression of a substantial portion of a container to be manufactured, and defining an outer wall shaped to be in at least partial mutual thermal-conduction contact with said shell holders;

a mold bottom defining a base impression of a base portion of the container to be manufactured;

at least two axial positioning assemblies positioned along said shell body by which said shell body may be fixed in an axial direction with respect to said shell holders; and

one or more bearing surfaces positioned along said shell body and sized and shaped to receive a quick-fixing locking member for releasably securing said shell body to said shell holders.

35. (Amended) The mold shell of claim 32, wherein each of said at least two axial position assemblies comprises one or more grooves along said outer wall of said shell body and one or more mating ribs along said shell holders.

37. (Amended) The mold shell of claim 32, wherein said mold shell is shaped to be supported and at least partially enveloped by said mold carriers.

38. (Amended) A shell body for use with a mold bottom to form a mold shell, the mold shell for use with a machine for manufacturing thermoplastic containers, said machine comprising two mold carriers which can move with respect to each other, said mold carriers supporting two shell holders including pipes and connections for the circulation of cooling and/or heating fluids, said shell holders defining a cavity for receiving said mold shell, the shell body comprising:

an outer wall shaped in order to be in at least partial mutual thermal-conduction contact with said shell holders; and

an impression of a substantial portion of a container to be manufactured;

wherein said shell body comprises at least two axial positioning assemblies by which said shell body may be fixed in an axial direction with respect to said shell holders; and

wherein said shell body comprises one or more bearing surfaces sized and shaped to receive a quick-fixing locking member for releasably securing said shell body to said shell holders.

41. (Amended) The shell body of claim 38, wherein each of said at least two axial position assemblies comprises one or more grooves along said outer wall of said shell body and one or more mating ribs along said shell holders.